

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04006 041657Z

73-62

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 EUR-08 /039 W

----- 094775

R 041519Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1729

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4006

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UN, APER, UR

SUBJ: UN LEGAL OFFICE-SOVIET NATIONAL

1. UN LEGAL COUNSEL ASKED MISOFFS FOR OUR VIEW OF PERFORMANCE IN CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE OF YURI RYBAKOV, SOVIET NATIONAL WHO IS DIRECTOR OF CODIFICATION DIVISION UN LEGAL OFFICE. SUY SAID HE HAD HAD SEVERAL REPORTS REGARDING BYBAKOV'S CONDUCT AND WOULD APPRECIATE OUR VIEWS.

2. WE REPLIED THAT RYBAKOV OPERATED OPENLY AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOVIET POLICY TO SUCH AN EXTENT AS TO DESTROY COMPLETELY HIS CREDIBILITY AS A SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL AND MORE SERIOUSLY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO RAISE QUESTIONS IN SOME IMPRESSIONABLE MINDS AS TO THE GENERAL CREDIBILITY OF THE LEGAL OFFICE AS AN OFFICE COMPOSED OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS.

3. SUY SAID THIS COMPORTED WITH OTHER REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED. HE SAID PROBLEM ALSO INVOLVED RYBAKOV'S DECLINING TO CARRY OUT RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS POSITION WHEN THERE WAS SOME OTHER ISSUE ABOUT WHICH USSR GOVERNMENT WAS MORE CONCERNED. SUY SAID HE HAD REMONSTRATED WITH RYBAKOV IN PAST ABOUT HIS BEHAVIOR WITH LITTLE RESULT AND WAS NOT CERTAIN WHAT STEPS HE WOULD TAKE.

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4. COMMENT: RYBAKOV DID US NO IMMEDIATE SERIOUS HARM IN THE

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE SINCE USSR POLICY IS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.
HIS EXTREME OBVIOUSNESS MOREOVER TENDS TO DISCREDIT HIM GENERALLY
IN OTHER CONTEXTS WHERE US AND SOVIET POLICY DIFFERS.
WITH OTHER DELS AND THUS HAS ITS POINTS/THE TROUBLE IS THE UN
LEGAL OFFICE IS AN OFFICE WE DO NOT WISH TO SEE DISCREDITED AND
ITS VIRTUALLY EXCLUSIVELY WESTERN LEADERSHIP COULD COME UNDER
ATTACK AS RYBAKOV MAKES DELS AWARE OF NATIONALITY OF OFFICIALS
CYNICAL ABOUT THE IMPARTIALITY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN04006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750306-0664
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750982/aaaacunx.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN LEGAL OFFICE-SOVIET NATIONAL
TAGS: APER, UR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006